

486395

Mel & Lerah Parker
5000 Hwy 37 North
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-9705

May 12, 2000

Att: Matthew Cohn:
Senior Enforcement Attorney

My wife and I are very adamant about the situation on the clean-up of our 21 acre tract of land, which was formerly the W.R. Grace Screening Plant.

We have a forty foot steel gate that accesses our property. It will remain locked and inaccessible to any effort made that would allow W.R. Grace to be responsible for the clean-up of our home and business.

Under those conditions it would take a COURT ORDER AND A PHYSICAL REMOVAL OF MYSELF AND MY WIFE to allow a follow up of such a decision.

The original clean-up was tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2000 Results of soil and air tests indicated a definite problem of "Immediate Concern" However, W.R. Grace, was in dispute, with the E.P.A. over sampling methods and testing technology. Even though soil samples indicated random samples in excess of 1% throughout the property, their concern for degree of clean-up was disturbing to us.

Grace will take 20 yards radius clean-up of the "Hot Spots".

Grace will clean the building rather than tear them down to save Money.

Grace will "DEED RESTRICT" UP TO 5 (FIVE) ACRES of the 21 acres with the WASTE MATERIAL to save MONEY.

Any agreement on an OFFER to us would be void and nullified if Grace does not do the cleanup.

If the EPA did the cleanup, any agreement for indemnification from Grace beginning with the purchase of the property through the clean-up would be nullified.

We have reviewed the WORKPLAN from the E.P.A. and are convinced that the folks from the E.P.A. have been up UPFRONT and sincere in their efforts to make sure this property is cleaned-up to meet the National Health Standards. My wife and I can once again look forward to fulfilling a dream of a home on the Kootenai with landscaping to match the beauty of the river and its surrounding environment.

Sincerely,

Sarah Parker

Mel & Lerah Parker

Mel Parker

May 12, 2000

Katie Castleton
410 Boulder Road
Libby, MT 59923

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Katie, my grandparents are Mel & Lerah Parker. Grace wreck my grandparents property. If you clean up my grandparents property will you please make a promise to make them a new house so I can still come and visit them. The reason why I am doing this is because they have gone through alot of working with thier bare hands to make a beautiful area. I wrote this letter to ask you to help my grandma & Grandpa. I don't want them to be sad anymore.

Thank you,

Katecastleton

Katie Castleton

Gayla, 03:20 PM 05/12/20, Response to cleanup

X-Sender: gaylab@mail.libby.org
Date: Fri, 12 May 2000 15:20:48 -0600
To: lerah@libby.org
From: Gayla <gaylab@libby.org>
Subject: Response to cleanup

To whom it may concern:

In response to the possibility that WR Grace "may" do the clean-up at
Raintree Nursery:

In order to assure the property owners (Mel and Lerah Parker) that the
clean up has been accomplished in a safe and thorough manner, I feel that
the BPA should proceed with their plans and not allow W.R Grace to perform
the clean up.

Gayla Benefield
245 Cedar Meadow Road
Libby, Montana 59923
gaylab@libby.org

mailbox/Libby/System%20Folder/Preferences/
Netscape%20%04/Mail/Sent%20Mail?id=

Cleanup

Friday, May 12, 2000

Subject: Cleanup

Date: Fri, 12 May 2000 16:39:25 -0600

From: "First American Ins. Libby" <1stamo3@libby.org>

Organization: Great Northwest

To: lerah@libby.org

May 12, 2000

Att: Matt Cohen

Sitting at the Cag meeting last night I watched my mother-in-law (Lerah Parker) pour out her heart to the members of the group. All she wants is her life to return to normal, their property cleaned up, and the dust which has taken over her life removed.

W.R. Grace doesn't seem to want to negotiate the cleanup or any compensation, whether material or monetary. I'm writing this letter to ask you (BPA) to step in, go ahead with the cleanup, and return the Parker's life back to as normal as possible.

Sincerely,


Kevin Castleton

May 12, 2000

Lerah Castleton
410 Boulder Road
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-5886

Att: Matt Cohen

It has come to my attention that there are maybe some complications in the decision of whether or not the EPA should be cleaning up the Parker's property. It is my understanding that at this current time W.R. Grace isn't even admitting to the any problems with the property.

The last proposal that I heard is that W.R. Grace would just do some spot cleaning. They were only going to clean up the extremely contaminated areas. I think it is in the best interest of the community that the job is done right the first time. It should have been done right 10 years ago. If W.R. Grace had done it right the first time, my entire family would not have been exposed. God forbid the clean up is not done correctly now and more families have to suffer from them being irresponsible.

W.R. Grace has not been willing to work with the Parkers as of yet. Why should they be willing to let them come onto their property and destroy it with no compensation? They have taken away their home, their business, and our health. W.R. Grace advised us to seek legal counsel in regards to our losses. I think they have caused enough pain and turmoil for the Parker's.

The EPA has the power to do something right on behalf of my parents. I think they have endured enough for a lifetime. I humbly ask you to do whatever you can to help make the destruction of their property as painless as possible.

Thank you,



Lerah Castleton

May 24, 2000

To whom it may concern:

I think the EPA should have the go ahead to clean up Rain Tree Nursery and the rest of the homes and businesses in need, my home included. From what I understand about the whole situation is that W.R. Grace wants to put a "band-aid" on all these places to get the people to shut-up and to pacify them. I know for my home I don't want a "band aid", I want it fixed right.

I have been told I have tremalite in my home. I want it gone, completely. For the last six months I have thought of little ~~else~~ when I tuck my girls (4 & 7 yrs old) into bed at night. This is the only home they have ever had. I ask myself, what have I done to my kids, not knowing myself.

W.R. Grace said at one time they were responsible and would fix things right. Now they have backed out of that. The EPA should be allowed to do what W.R. Grace won't. God knows it needs to be done as soon as possible.

Shelly L. Spencer
512 W. 6th St.
Libby, MT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: ENF-L

Dr. Rick Palagi
St. John's Lutheran Hospital
350 Louisiana Ave.
Libby, Montana 59923

Brandy

DRAFT

Dear Dr. Palagi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the creation of a trust fund to assist those with asbestos-related diseases. Both the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry ("ATSDR") are extremely supportive of such an idea, particularly the great degree of community involvement in the design and implementation of the trust.

The law under which both EPA and ATSDR are authorized to perform Superfund response actions, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9601 *et seq.*, is broad in the context of abating releases of hazardous substances to the environment and in the assessment of health effects resulting from such releases. CERCLA, however, is narrow in the scope of who may receive Superfund dollars and in the ability to provide medical treatment beyond assessment and referral. Unfortunately, we do not have the statutory authority to provide funds to a community trust for medical treatment.

Our staff is available to provide you with whatever assistance they can given their respective areas of expertise. However, we do strongly recommend that you obtain the advice of a Montana lawyer specializing in trusts. Please contact Matthew Cohn of EPA at (303) 312-6853 or Deborah Tress of ATSDR at (404) 639-7200 with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hanmer
Acting Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Henry Falk, M.D.
Assistant Administrator
Agency for Toxic Substance and
Disease Registry



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